

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 STR-04

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R 141145Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4048

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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DELHI FOR AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJ: WHEAT SALES TO SRI LANKA

REF A) STATE 220653 (NOTAL), B) COLOMBO 141 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED DEC 31 LETTER FROM R A HUNT, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, WHEAT ASSOCIATES, USA, SINGAPORE INFORMING US OF VISIT TO COLOMBO FEB 9 AND 10 IN ORDER APPROACH GSL AUTHORITIES CONCERNING COMMERCIAL PURCHASES AMERICAN WHEAT. LETTER STATES "WHEAT AGAIN LISTED FOR CCC CREDIT." AND GIVES DETAILS OF PRICES AND TERMS AVAILABLE NOW FOR AMERICAN FLOUR THAT WOULD BE COMPETITIVE WITH OTHER COMMERCIAL SUPPLIERS.

2. WE ALSO HAVE DEC 30 LETTER FROM EMBASSY DELHI AGATT IVAN JOYNSON INFORMING US OF JAN 31 - FEB 4 VISIT TO COLOMBO TO INVESTIGATE SRI LANKA'S WHEAT REQUIREMENTS DURING 1976. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DELHI DIRECTOR, WHEAT ASSOCIATES, USA, PAT KANDHARI.

3. EMBASSY WELCOMES AND GLAD TO ASSIST THESE VISITS

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BUT BELIEVES THAT CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND

AGATT SHOULD BE AWARE CURRENT SITUATION HERE AND THAT
PROPOSED VISITS SHOULD BE COORDINATED.

4. WE AND GSL AUTHORITIES ARE NOW URGENTLY
AWAITING NOTIFICATION OF HOPEFULLY HIGH-LEVEL FY 76 PL 480
TITLE I ALLOCATION WHEAT FLOUR (REF B). UNTIL THIS
NOTIFICATION MADE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO
APPROACH GSL FOOD OFFICIALS CONCERNING COMMERCIAL
PURCHASE FROM US. AS SOON AS NOTIFICATION MADE, HOWEVER,
SUCH APPROACH COULD BE VERY APPROPRIATE, ESPECIALLY IF US
TERMS ARE COMPETITIVE WITH TRADITIONAL COMMERCIAL SOURCES
LAST SEVERAL YEARS, FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA. EVEN WITH MAXIMUM
CONCESSIONAL AND GRANT SUPPLIES,
GSL WILL PROBABLY
BUY FLOUR COMMERCIALLY IN 1976.

5. CONCERNING TERMS, GIVEN INFO IN REFTEL A FOLLOW-
ING LAST WHEAT ASSOCIATES VISIT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
WASHINGTON CONFIRMATION THAT CCC CREDIT FOR WHEAT FLOUR
IS NOW AVAILABLE TO GSL.

6. FINALLY, WE SUGGEST THAT COLOMBO VISITS CONCERNING
US COMMERCIAL WHEAT SLAES BE COORDINATED. WE HAVE NOT
COMMUNICATED WITH HUNT. HE DEPARTS SINGAPORE JAN 19 AND WILL
BE IN DELHI JAN 22 TO 27. PLEASE ADVISE.
PERKINS

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